

Bismarck

Mayor's Committee on Human Relations

Annual Report

2014-2015



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MISSION OF COMMITTEE

The mission of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee is to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential. We seek to make education and compliance a meaningful and visible strategy as we work to recognize the value of a diverse community.

GOALS OF COMMITTEE

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee has the following goals and objectives as defined in its strategic plan:

1. To exhibit leadership in the areas of civil and human rights:
 - a. The committee will be comprised of individuals that represent and are knowledgeable of diverse populations.
 - b. The committee members will practice and model actions that exemplify nondiscrimination, acceptance, and respect of diversity.
2. To educate the public about civil and human rights:
 - a. The committee will implement a public education plan to identify and address issues.
 - b. The committee will actively plan, sponsor, and participate in events that promote and celebrate diversity.
3. To identify issues of principle concern in the area of civil and human rights:
 - a. The committee will provide access for public input.
 - b. The committee will prioritize issues based on input received.
4. To recommend priorities and objectives about issues of community concern to the City Commission:
 - a. The committee will serve as a liaison in issues of civil and human rights between the community and the City Commissioners.
5. To advocate for compliance with federal and state laws regarding civil and human rights, including North Dakota Century Code Chapters 14-02.4 (Human Rights) and 14-02.5 (Housing):
 - a. The committee will provide information about current laws through multiple formats.
 - b. The committee will maintain data regarding civil and human rights issues.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

Bismarck Ordinance 5208 created the Bismarck Human Relations Committee and received final passage on October 8, 2002. The committee's purpose is to promote acceptance and respect for diversity through educational programs and activities and to discourage all forms of discrimination including protected class discrimination, ADA violations, or other statutory or constitutional violations (Chapter 2-11).

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE

The committee consists of nine members who serve without pay. Member appointment is by the President of the Board of City Commissioners, and subject to confirmation by the Board of City Commissioners. Appointees serve three-year terms.

COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee meets on the third Monday of each month (except on holidays) at 5:15 pm in the First Floor Conference Room of the City/County Office Building, 221 North Fifth Street in downtown Bismarck. Meetings are open to the public and accept public comment.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sharon Korsmo, Chair
Danielle Stuckle, Vice-Chair
Will Kincaid
Karel Sovak
Jordan West
Jared Lee
Rissa Williams
Julie Thiery
Michelle Thomas

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION

A copy of the Human Relations Committee Ordinance, Strategic Plan, Annual Report, complaint filing forms, and other information may be accessed online at www.bismarcknd.gov or by mailing:

Mayor's Committee on Human Relations
City of Bismarck
PO Box 5503
221 N 5 Street
Bismarck, ND 58506-5503

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES 2014-2015

The annual Diversity University event was held on the campus of United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) in September and October 2014. On September 11, Moneer Nyazi from Afghanistan and Gino and Marian DeClay spoke about first hand experiences from people who have recently moved to the community. On September 18, Cheryl Kary, Ph.D., and Karla Davis spoke about organizations providing services to the hidden homeless in our community. On September 25, a panel discussion on homelessness in the Bismarck/Mandan area featured Jaclyn Hall from the Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, Officer Clint Fuller from the Bismarck Police Department, and Mark Heinert from Youthworks. The series wrapped up on October 2 with presentations on human trafficking by Patrick Atkinson of the God's Child Project and Christina Sambor of FUSE. These events were all held free of charge and open to the public. See attached flyer for more information.

The winner of the 2015 Human Rights Essay and Poetry Contest was announced on April 15th with a visit by Bismarck Mayor Mike Seminary to the winner's classroom at Horizon Middle School. Rylie Fode, age 11, Grade 6, was presented with a certificate from Mayor Seminary while her family, classmates, and members of the Human Rights Committee looked on. Mayor Seminary wrapped up the visit by posing for photos with students, teachers, and family members. The essay was also recognized at the Human Rights TALK2015 on April 18, 2015. Held at the Heritage Center of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the Human Rights TALK2015 event featured Fode's poem in the program flyer along with special recognition by the Mayor during the day. The winning poem is attached.



From left: Shaun Fode, Rosann Fode, Rylie Fode, Danielle Stuckle, Mayor Mike Seminary

The Human Relations Committee was presented with a new opportunity for a community partnership this spring when Erik Holland, the Curator of Education for the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) asked the committee to partner on several events it held at the Heritage Center in the spring of 2015. These new events included the Human Rights TALK2015 (poster attached), and the Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle film series (poster attached). The SHSND also hosted *Changing America*, a traveling exhibit about civil rights developed by the Smithsonian Institution, the American Library Association, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These events were all supported by the Human Relations Committee in a variety of ways including asking the Mayor to recognize the student essay/poetry contest, and having several members introduce and lead discussion for the film series.

A call for nominations has gone out for the annual Humanitarian Award for 2015, but has not yet been awarded at the time the annual report was written. The Humanitarian Award recognizes individuals, businesses, and organizations that have exhibited leadership in the areas of human and civil rights with a focus upon recognizing those that educate, identify issues, and address human rights. A press release announcing the award nominations is attached.

DIVERSITY UNIVERSITY 2014

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

FIRST PERSON REFLECTIONS

7 p.m. Thursday, September 11

Al Stockert Dining Hall • Building 72 • United Tribes Technical College

Join us in listening to first hand experiences from people who have recently moved to the community. Gino and Marian DeClay from Arizona and Moneer Nyazi from Afghanistan share their adventures, challenges and triumphs they encountered moving to a new place.

TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

7 p.m. Thursday, September 18

Al Stockert Dining Hall • Building 72 • United Tribes Technical College

How do new residents make the transition from sleeping on a friend's couch to having a place of their own? Join us for a panel discussion about the organizations providing services to the hidden homeless in our community. Cheryl Kary, Ph.D., and Karla Davis work with families and students on a daily basis. Hear about what is being done to help people make a home in Bismarck and Mandan.

HOMELESS IN BISMARCK

7 p.m. Thursday, September 25

Al Stockert Dining Hall • Building 72 • United Tribes Technical College

Jaclyn Hall from the Ruth Meiers Hospitality House; Officer Clint Fuller from the Bismarck Police Department; and Mark Heinert from Youthworks will lead a panel discussion on homelessness in the Bismarck/Mandan area. They will discuss what services are available and what each agency is doing to address the homelessness.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

7 p.m. Thursday, October 2

Al Stockert Dining Hall • Building 72 • United Tribes Technical College

Tens of thousands of newcomers have arrived to North Dakota in the past few years to work in the oil fields. Not all individuals are law abiding citizens. Join us as Patrick Atkinson of the God's Child Project and Christina Sambor of FUSE discuss human trafficking cases in the state along with what is being done to manage the problem.

All events take place at United Tribes Technical College, 3315 University Drive, Bismarck

www.bismarcknd.gov

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:

Bismarck



A Single Drop

A white cloud floats above a hill,
Its crevices holding drop upon drop
And one which falls, others which follow,
Pouring down the muddy slope,
Rushing in the same direction,
Becoming a stream of fresh rainwater,
A single drop followed by countless others.

A rock sits in the middle of the stream,
The water curving around harsh edges.
As if trying to ignore its presence
Little drops fall upon the boulder,
But no one drop is enough to consume it,
And it stays firmly in place.
Debris gets caught around it,
The lost and uncertain, caught in its false strength,
But with the force of the drops together,
The debris is washed away.

The newly fallen water continues down the slope,
Where the rock is still standing strong.
More lonely drops crash into it,
But the rock refuses to move.
The little waves realize the lonely drops' intentions,
So they cling to each other,
Hold each other's hands,
And direct a force onto the boulder
In the middle of the stream
Until it is devoured,
Retracts from the force
Of drop after drop,
Until the boulder corrodes away,
Until it is nothing but a pebble,
Until it is nothing but nothing.
And the stream runs freely,
And more fresh droplets come.

Rylie Fode, winner
Bismarck Human Relations Committee Essay & Poetry Contest



HUMAN RIGHTS TALK2015

Challenges & Solutions

Join us for an inspiring conversation with keynote **Shannon Galpin**—global humanitarian, activist, author, speaker, and founder of Mountain2Mountain.



STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA



Saturday, APRIL 18

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
ND Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND

REGISTRATION

\$20 (lunch included)
history.nd.gov/talk2015
701.328.2666



9 a.m.

Former North Dakota US Attorney Tim Purdon addresses **human trafficking** challenges in our state.



10 a.m.

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commissioner Scott Davis presents a **conversation about race**.



11 a.m.

Global activist and Bismarck native Shannon Galpin speaks about **equal rights for women and girls in areas of conflict**.



Noon

Senator Heidi Heitkamp speaks on **human rights issues**.

Bismarck Human Relations Committee Essay & Poetry Contest student winner recognized.
Audience Q&A with the speaker panel.

NATIONAL FILM SERIES at the ND Heritage Center

The following four films are part of *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*, produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Sunday, April 5 at 2 p.m.
The Abolitionists

Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m.
Slavery By Another Name

Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m.
The Loving Story

Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m.
Freedom Riders

April 29-June 12, 2015

The national *Changing America* exhibit opens at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum on April 29! One hundred years separate the Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington, yet they are profoundly linked together in a larger story of liberty and the American experience. *Changing America* was created as a traveling exhibit to commemorate these two pivotal achievements on their 150th and 50th anniversaries. Watch for ND Heritage Center's upcoming programming to explore how the historical content of these events and their impact relate to North Dakota.



STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA

Sensational Sundays!

Join us for **FREE** public programs at the
ND Heritage Center & State Museum

NATIONAL FILM SERIES coming to the ND Heritage Center!

The following four films are part of Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle, produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The four films illustrate the majesty of the civil rights movement and encourage public conversations about the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America. Learn more about each film at neh.gov/created-equal.

Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m.
Slavery By Another Name

Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m.
The Loving Story

Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m.
Freedom Riders

Each film will be followed by a facilitated discussion.

Sunday, May 17 2 p.m.
The Abolitionists (part I)

Sunday, May 24 2 p.m.
The Abolitionists (part II)

Sunday, May 31 2 p.m.
The Abolitionists (part III)

Sunday, June 21 at 2 p.m.
Conversations on the Bench

A Bruce Wendt Film Production hosted by Brian Palecek

**Programs are subject to change. Find updates at history.nd.gov.*

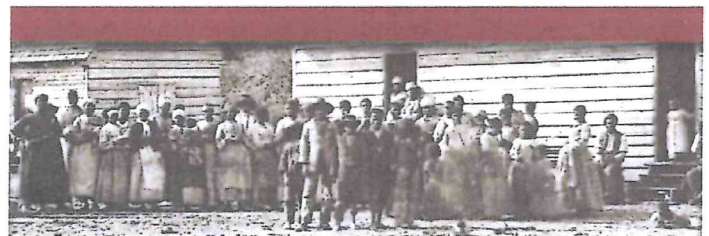


FREE
Kat Perkins
Concert

Saturday
June 6
4 p.m.

Debut of the outdoor
Prairie Amphitheater
ND Heritage Center
& State Museum

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 17, 2015
Governor's History Conference



CHANGING AMERICA

The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963

ONE HUNDRED YEARS APART, YET PROFOUNDLY LINKED

EXPERIENCE THE EXHIBIT MAY 1 TO JUNE 10, 2015
ND HERITAGE CENTER & STATE MUSEUM FREE ADMISSION

Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963 is presented by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and is part of NEH's Bridging Cultures Initiative. "Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle," which brings four outstanding films on the civil rights movement to communities across the United States (see <http://createdequalneb.gov>). "Created Equal" encourages communities across the country to revisit and reflect on the long history of civil rights in America. Image courtesy of Library of Congress



West River Winds
Patriotic Concert
JULY 1, 2015
Outdoor Prairie Amphitheater
ND Heritage Center & State Museum

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The logo for the City of Bismarck, featuring the word "Bismarck" in a stylized, blue, serif font.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

March 26, 2015

For More Information, Contact:

Sharon Korsmo
Bismarck Human Relations Committee
Phone: gskorsmo@gmail.com

Bismarck Human Relations Committee Seeks Humanitarian Award Nominations

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Bismarck Human Relations Committee seeks nominations for an individual, business or non-profit organization that has exhibited leadership in the areas of human and civil rights with a focus upon recognizing those that educate identify issues and address human rights issues.

The nomination form is available at www.bismarcknd.gov. Nominations must be submitted by May 15, 2015. Submit nominations to:

City of Bismarck
Attention: Human Relations Committee
221 N 5th Street
Bismarck ND 58506-5503

The Humanitarian Award will be presented at an event to be announced.

The mission of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee is to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential. For more information please visit www.bismarcknd.gov

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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